CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A tread for a pneumatic tire, the tread comprising a tread surface having a plurality of grooves therein, the grooves having a base defining the depth of the groove relative to the tread surface, and opposing groove walls, a centerline equidistance from the opposing groove walls, the grooves extending in either a circumferential or a lateral direction of the tread,

wherein at least one of the grooves has a plurality of spaced projections in the base of the groove, the projections extending from one groove wall to the opposing groove wall and inclined relative to the groove centerline at an angle of 10° to 50°, the projections having a pitch length measured at the groove centerline of 0.75 - 1.25 the projection length as measured along the groove centerline.

2.   The tread of claim 1 wherein, at the groove centerline, the projections have a maximum radial height of 35% of the groove depth.

3.   The tread of claim 1 wherein, at the sidewalls, the projections terminate at a height of 40-60% of the groove depth, as measured a base of the groove.

4.   The tread of claim 1 wherein the at least one of the grooves extends in the circumferential direction of the tread.

5.   The tread of claim 1 wherein the at least one of the grooves extends in a lateral direction of the tread.

6.   The tread of claim 1 wherein the radially outermost surface of the projection, along the length of the projection, is flat.

7.   The tread of claim 1 wherein the radially outermost surface of the projection, along the length of the projection, is peaked.

8.   The tread of claim 1 wherein the radially outermost surface of the projection, along the length of the projection, is curved radially inwardly.

9.   The tread of claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional configuration of the projection, parallel to the width of the projection, is selected from the group consisting of square, rectangular, triangular, raised triangular, or rounded.